# ANNUAL REPORT

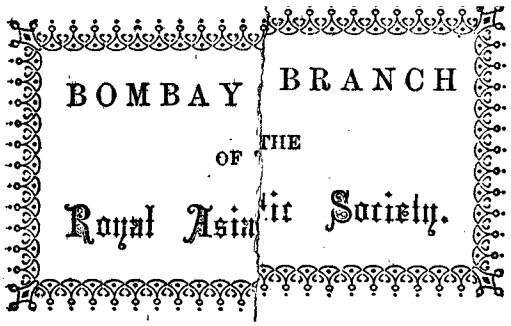
OF THE

# ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY, BENGAL CIRCLE,

For the year ending with April, 1905.

Calcutta:
BENGAL SECRETARIAT PRESS.
1905.

*Not for sale.*

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## PART I.

## DEPARTMENTAL NOTES.

1. *Tours.*—The number of days spent by me on touring was 134, of these 41 days were spent in Assam, and the remainder in Bengal. My tour programme received some alterations owing to the visit of the Director-General of Archæology to Bengal in November and December. Our journey occupied 27 days and took us to Gaya, Budh-Gaya, Sasaram, Rohtasgurh, Patna, Maner, Rajgir, Gaur and Panduah and then after a short halt at Calcutta to Bhubanesvar, Khandagiri, Puri and Kanarak. In Orissa we had the pleasure of the company of Professor A. Hillebrandt of Breslau in Germany, a distinguished Sanskrit scholar, who was travelling in India during last cold weather. At the suggestion of the Director General of Archæology and with his approval I have put in a little over one month's excavation at Lauriya north of Bettiah. Mr. Marshall considered it important that also some exploration work should be done last season in Bengal, and as there was not sufficient time left to continue the excavations at Basarh, I proposed to open some of the curious earthen mounds near Lauriya, this being a work that could be completed within a month or so. In connection with my tour to Assam, I feel it my duty to record my sincere gratitude towards the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam for the liberal grant made by him for defraying the expenses of my journey to the Copper temple and to Bhishmaknagar north of Sadiya, a difficult and costly journey, which I could not have undertaken without the arrangements kindly made for me by Mr. F. J. Needham, the Assistant Political Officer at Sadiya. The places visited by me in Assam lie in the districts of Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Darrang and Goalpara. In Bengal they are in the districts of Burdwan, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Champaran, Malda and Puri. With the consent of the Government of Bengal, I remained at head-quarters for a few weeks in December in connection with some special work required from me by the Trustees of the Indian Museum. The following statement shows the different tours made by me and the number of days spent on each :—

| 1904. | | Days. |
|---|---|---|
| July 16th—23rd | ... Inspection of repairs at Kanarak, Bhubaneswar, Khandagiri, and visit to Dhauli Hill, in district Puri | 8 |
| July 26th ... | ... Inspection of temple at Chakdaha, district Nadia ... ... | 1 |
| July 28th ... | ... Inspection of temple at Baddipur, district Burdwan ... ... | 1 |
| October 5th ... | ... Inspection of Raresvar temple, district Burdwan ... ... ... | 1 |
| November 2nd—4th | ... Inspection of Joter Deul, district 24-Parganas ... ... ... | 3 |
| November 9th—28th | ... With Director-General of Archæology to Gaya, Budh-Gaya, Sasaram, Rohtasgarh, Patna, Maner, Rajgir, Gaur and Panduah, in the districts of Gaya, Shahabad, Patna and Malda ... ... ... | 20 |
| | ... | — |
| | Carried over ... | 34 |
| | ... | — |

| 1904. | | Days. |
|---|---|---|
| | Brought forward ... | 34 |
| December 1st—7th | ... With Director-General of Archæology to Bhubanesvar, Khandagiri, Puri, and Kanarak in district Puri ... | 7 |
| December 28th—31st | ... Inspection of mosques at Ekana Chandpara, Kheraul and Katra in district Murshidabad ... ... ... | 4 |
| 1905. | | |
| January 12th—February 21st. | Assam tour. Visit of Copper temple and Bhishmaknagar north of Sadiya in district Lakhimpur; of ruins at Dimapore, Deopani and Kasomari Pathar in district Sibsagar; of ancient rock inscription near Tejpur in district Darrang, and of mosque on Rangamati Hill near Dhubri in district Goalpara. | 41 |
| February 22nd—April 10th | Excavations at Lauriya, north of Bettiah, in district Champaran ... ... | 48 |
| | Total ... | 134 |

2. *Conservation.*—The amount of expenditure on conservation of ancient monuments in 1904-1905 was Rs. 42,563 in Bengal, and Rs. 2,581-14-10 in Assam. No grants-in-aid have been received in either Province from the Imperial allotment for Archæology. Details of these figures will be found in Appendix A, which has been prepared with the help of statements supplied to me by the Public Works Secretariats of Bengal and Assam. In regard to Bengal the figures are subject to alteration, as I am informed that the account books have not yet been finally closed. The total amount sanctioned for conservation work in Bengal is Rs. 1,84,639. Among this several important items have been standing over for several years already. They are:—

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| Repairs to ancient monuments at Panduah and Tribeni in the district of Hooghly, sanctioned in 1902 ... ... ... | 29,059 |
| Repairs to the dargah of Bakhtiyar Khan at Chainpur in the district of Shahabad, sanctioned in 1903 ... ... ... | 5,072 |
| Re-erection of fallen As'oka column at Rampurwa in the district of Champaran, sanctioned in 1903 ... ... ... | 9,000 |
| Total ... | 43,131 |

The repairs to the dargah of Khan Jahan and the Sat-Gumbaz mosque at Bagerhat in the district of Khulna, and to the old mosque at Satgaon in the district of Hooghly, sanctioned in 1904 also are kept standing over. No report has been received by me in regard to the repairs of the temples at Vishnupur in the district of Bankura, which I proposed in April 1904. The repairs to the mosque at Bagra in the district of Rajshahi are also kept over pending action being taken under the Ancient Monuments Act. These facts show that while at the principal places of archæological interest in Bengal, such as Gour and Panduah, Bhubanesvar and Kanarak, conservation work is making a steady progress, the same cannot be said in regard to the total of the province. It does not seem to me advisable that important works should be allowed to stand over for several years after they have received the administrative sanction of Government, and a more systematic disposal of the available funds probably would help to remedy this. I shall welcome it very much if the Public Works Department would draw up at the beginning of each financial year in consultation with me a programme of the work after having ascertained what funds are available, and I shall myself see that this programme is carried to an end before the year lapses. I believe that such an arrangement will largely contribute to a more steady progress of conservation throughout the Province.

The inspection tours undertaken by me in Bengal did not yield many important new proposals, except perhaps in the cases of the Joter Deul in the Sunderbans and the mosque at Kheraul in the district of Murshidabad, the repairs of which are now under consideration. The same may be said in regard to my Assam tour. There the restoration of the ruins at Dimapur stands in the

front rank. The plan of operation sanctioned for the current year is to clear the jungle all over the area of the ancient city, in order to see what amount of remains exists and in what condition, and then to lay out a systematic programme of work for the coming years. Further details need not be given here, as they will be found in my notes in Part II of this Report.

The visit of the Director-General of Archæology to Bengal yielded a number of important new proposals, about which further particulars will be given in his own Report. I need merely mention here that they concern the following buildings:—

Chhoti Dargah at Maner in the district of Patna, complete restoration of northern gate, mosque and out-houses; additional repairs to the Bara Darwaza, Dakhil Darwaza, Minar, Kadam Rasul, Tantipara mosque, Lattan mosque, and Sona Masjid of Firozpur suburb at Gaur, and to the Adinah Masjid and the Eklakhi monument at Panduah in the district of Malda.

Repairs to the Meghesvar temple, Raja-Rani temple and to some minor temples at Bhubanesvar, and to the eastern gate of the Black Pagoda at Kanarak in the district of Puri. The removal of the big heap of stones and debris west of the Mandapa of the Black Pagoda at Kanarak is another important new proposal, as it is likely to bring to light about one-third of the fallen tower more or less in complete preservation.

A proposal for the better preservation of the two Lauriya pillars of Asoka in the district of Champaran has also been submitted by me to the Public Works Department. The Asoka inscription on the Dhauli Hill in the district of Puri will be protected by a stone shade which is to be erected over the inscribed portion of the rock.

3. *Exploration.*—The reason why I undertook the exploration of some of the earthen mounds near Lauriya north of Bettiah has already been given in paragraph (1) of this Report. The work occupied 48 days altogether, out of which 35 were spent in digging. The cost of the work amounts to Rs. 563-4-6, of which Rs. 500 were met out of a special grant received from the Imperial allotment for Archæology, and the balance from my own budget. The average number of workmen employed was 90 daily. My thanks are due to Mr. G. B. Moore of the Lauriya farm for the assistance he gave me during my stay at Lauriya. The results of my excavations are detailed in paragraph (12) of the second part of this Report. Although not very important in regard to antiquarian finds, they disclosed some curious and interesting facts and have enabled me to determine for what purposes these mounds have been erected, about which hitherto almost nothing was known.

4. *Inscriptions.*—In Assam I have again taken two copies of the ancient rock inscription near Tezpur, dated in the Gupta year 510. These have been sent by me to Professor Kielhorn at Göttingen, and I hope we will soon hear from him what the full contents of this inscription are of which previously only portions had been made out. For want of a suitable kind of paper, my first impressions, taken in 1902, were not as clear as they should have been, and it is very important to have as good a copy of this inscription as possible, many of the letters being very faint and difficult to read. I found also a new inscription on one of the images at Deopani in the district of Sibsagar in Assam. It was mutilated and of no historical importance.

In Bengal I copied two new inscriptions at the mosque of Kheraul in the district of Murshidabad. Both are of the Hijri year 900, or the beginning of the reign of Husain Shah. The inscription on the temple at Buddipur in the district of Burdwan, dated in the Saka year 1600, is of no special interest. The circular order issued by Government to all District Officers in Bengal, to supply me with information about any inscriptions on stone or copperplates known to exist in their districts did not yield much new. It brought to light only three new copperplates—one from the Talcher State of the Orissa Tributary Mahals, containing a grant made by Kulastambha Ranaka, a petty Chief of the 11th or 12th century, who is known to us from another copperplate also. The second belongs to the Raja Bahadur of Parikud in the District of Puri and contains a grant made by Yas'obhitadeva, a king of Kalinga known to us from other plates also. The third comes from Angul; it is just being sent to me for decipherment. It is a matter of regret that owners of valuable copperplates in Bengal often are very reluctant to give any information about

them to Government officers, as they are afraid that Government might take away the plates from them forcibly.

In Budh-Gaya I copied two unpublished short dedicatory inscriptions of the 7th and 9th century A. D., which are of some interest, as they record gifts made by Ceylonese monks.

5. *Drawings and photographs.*—The number of drawings completed during the last year was 24. Fourteen new drawings have been made of minor objects found by me at Basarh, for illustration of my article on the exacavations at Basarh, for the Annual Report of the Archæological Survey of India. At Lauriya a map has been plotted showing the position of the earthen mounds and the Nandangarh. It is based on an accurate survey made by Babu Nando Lall Mitter. A list of the drawings is given in Appendix C.

The number of new photographs taken in 1904-1905 is 87, of which 27 were taken in Assam. A list of them is attached to this Report in Appendix B, and one copy of each of them is sent for the inspection of His Honour.

6. *Publications.*—I have contributed three illustrated articles to the Annual Report of the Archæological Survey of India for 1903-1904. They deal with my excavations at Basarh, the cave inscriptions in the Ramgarh Hill, and the progress of conservation work in Bengal. The preparation of the revised List of Ancient Monuments in Bengal has made good progress, but it will take some time before it is completed, as, owing to my absence on six months' leave to Europe in 1905 I shall not be able to go on with it this year.

7. *Establishment.*—No changes have occurred in my office establishment during the year under report. The members of my staff have worked to my satisfaction. The following is a statement of expenditure incurred by the Department in 1904-1905 :—

| | Rs. | A. | P. | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Surveyor's pay ... ... ... | 5,390 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Salary of non-gazetted establishment— | | | | | | |
| 1 Photographer ... ... | 840 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 1 Draftsman ... ... | 840 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 1 Clerk ... ... | 600 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 2 Peons ... ... | 192 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Temporary establishment ... ... | 98 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| | | | | 7,960 | 0 | 0 |
| Allowances— | | | | | | |
| Travelling allowances ... ... | 2,727 | 6 | 3 | | | |
| | | | | 2,727 | 6 | 3 |
| Supplies and services— | | | | | | |
| Photographic charges ... ... | 308 | 7 | 3 | | | |
| Contingencies— | | | | | | |
| Postage charges ... ... | 30 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Telegram charges ... ... | 40 | 9 | 0 | | | |
| Conveyance of stores, tents, records, &c. | 426 | 2 | 6 | | | |
| Hot and cold weather charges ... | 31 | 0 | 10 | | | |
| Miscellaneous ... ... | 61 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Purchase and repair of office furniture | 131 | 1 | 3 | | | |
| | | | | 1,028 | 4 | 10 |
| GRAND TOTAL ... | | | | 11,715 | 11 | 1 |

8. *Tour programme for the year 1905-1906.*—Mr. Marshall proposes to excavate with me at Rajgir in the district of Patna in January and February 1906, a place which we visited in November last and which he considers a very promising site. If I can arrange to put a suitable person in charge of the work, I should like to continue the excavations at Basarh in the district of Muzaffarpur at the same time. This will be done in consultation with Mr. Marshall, who is likely to be able to provide such a person.

When I return from leave on the 29th November 1905, I propose to go to Assam first, to see the progress of the work at Dimapur and to excavate an ancient tomb near Sibsagar which has just been brought to my notice, and which the Chief Commissioner desires me to open next cold weather. The remainder of the cold season will be filled up with inspection tours to those places in Bengal where repairs of ancient monuments are either in progress or under consideration.

T. BLOCK,

*Archæological Surveyor, Bengal Circle.*

# APPENDIX A.

*Conservation of Ancient Monuments in Bengal and Assam in 1904-1905.*

| District. | Locality. | Name of Work. | Amount sanctioned. | Amount spent. | Whether completed in progress or proposed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | **BENGAL.** | Rs. | Rs. A. P. | |
| Burdwan ... | Buddipur ... | Jungle clearing over temple ... ... | 34 | 33 0 0 | Completed. |
| Ditto ... | Kalna ... | Ditto over old mosque ... ... | 63 | 63 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Hooghly ... | Pandua and Tribeni. | Repairs to Minar and mosques at Panduah and to dargah of Zafar Khan Ghazi and mosque at Tribeni. | 29,059 | ... | Proposed. |
| Ditto ... | Satgaon ... | Repairs to the old mosque ... ... | 502 | ... | Ditto. |
| Ditto ... | Rishra ... | Marble tablets for Hastings' Lodge ... ... | 65 | 47 0 0 | Completed. |
| Calcutta ... | Calcutta ... | Constructing Holwell's monument ... ... | 16,327 | 9,450 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Providing railing around the same ... ... | 643 | 571 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Khulna ... | Bagerhat ... | Repairs to dargah of Khan Jahan and Sat Gumbaz mosque. | 14,786 | ... | Proposed. |
| Nadia ... | Plassey ... | Repairs to monuments of battle-field ... ... | 3,080 | 3 0 0 | In progress. |
| Murshidabad ... | Berhampur ... | Providing inscribed tablet for old Dutch Barrack | 40 | 32 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Darjeeling ... | Darjeeling ... | Repairs to endowed monuments in the Government cemetery. | 209 | 205 0 0 | Completed. |
| Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Repairs to tomb of Czöma de Köros ... .. | 4 | 4 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Ditto ... | Kurseong ... | Repairs to endowed monuments in the cemetery ... | 95 | 95 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Ditto ... | Hopetown ... | Ditto ditto ... | 8 | 8 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Dacca .. | Dacca ... | Repairs to Bibi Peri's tomb ... ... | 50 | 48 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Do. ... | Munshiganj ... | Repairs to wall of old fort ... ... | 1,456 | 1,339 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Mymensingh ... | Kishoreganj ... | Repairs to mosque ... ... ... | 55 | 50 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Patna ... | Maner ... | Repairs to Chhoti Dargah... ... ... | 270 | 180 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Do. ... | Bihar ... | Repairs to dargah of Ibrahim Bayyu ... ... | 21 | 21 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Do. .. | Bankipore ... | Repairs to endowed tombs in cemetery ... | 13 | 13 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Gaya ... | Gaya ... | Ditto ditto ... ... | 5 | 5 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Do. ... | Guneri ... | Constructing shed over statue of Buddha ... | 401 | 250 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Do. ... | Budh-Gaya ... | Repairs to temple and surrounding buildings ... | 739 | 475 0 0 | In progress. |
| Shahabad ... | Sasaram ... | Repairs to tomb of Sher Shah ... ... | 80 | 62 0 0 | Completed. |
| Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Repairs to tomb of Husain Shah ... ... | 50 | 43 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Ditto ... | Rohtasgarh ... | Repairs to palace ... .. ... | 418 | 419 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Ditto ... | Chainpur ... | Repairs to dargah of Bakhtiyar Khan ... | 5,072 | ... | Proposed. |
| Ditto ... | Deo Banarak ... | Masonry platform for inscribed pillar in temple court. | 12 | 13 0 0 | Completed. |
| Champaran ... | Rampurwa ... | Borings around stump of broken pillar ... | 100 | 36 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Re-erection of fallen Asoka pillar ... ... | 9,000 | ... | Proposed. |
| Monghyr ... | Monghyr ... | Repairs to dargah of Shah Nafah ... ... | 1,128 | 1,128 0 0 | Completed. |
| Malda ... | Gaur and Panduah. | Restoration of ancient monuments ... ... | 67,685 | 9,778 0 0 | In progress. |
| Balasore ... | Balasore ... | Repairs to Dutch tombs ... ... ... | 39 | 21 0 0 | Completed. |
| Cuttack ... | Jajpur ... | Jungle clearing around ancient monuments ... | 30 | 22 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Puri ... | Bhubanesvar ... | Additional repairs to temples ... ... | 84 | 84 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Do. ... | Kanarak ... | Preservation of mandapa of Black Pagoda and clearing of debris from Dancing Hall. | 33,015 | 18,059 0 0 | In progress. |
| Do. ... | Khurda ... | Repairs to monuments at Khurda and Gurjang ... | 11 | 6 0 0 | Completed. |
| | | Total ... | 1,84,639 | 42,563 0 0 | |
| | | **ASSAM.** | | | |
| Cachar ... | ..... | Jungle clearing and petty excavation necessary for inspecting ancient remains in the Cachar district. | 200 | 4 0 0 | Completed. |
| Kamrup ... | Hajo ... | Restoring the vestibule and repairing the temple at Hajo. | 4,781 | 132 0 0 | In progress. |
| Lakhimpur ... | Sadiya ... | Jungle clearing at Bhismaknagar and Copper temple near Sadiya. | 405 | 404 8 0 | Completed. |
| Darrang ... | Tezpur ... | Annual clearance of jungle around the ruins of the temple at Bamani Hill. | 40 | 40 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Naga Hills ... | Dimapur ... | Restoring monolith columns at Dimapur ... | 6,800 | 1,573 6 10 | In progress. |
| Sylhet ... | Sylhet ... | Removing and refixing an inscribed basalt stone at Shah-Jalal's dargah, Sylhet. | 45 | 45 0 0 | Completed. |
| | Godghor South Sylhet. | Carrying out preliminary repairs to Kharajar mosque. | 30 | 30 0 0 | Ditto. |
| Sibsagar ... | Ghargaon near Nazira. | Annual repairs to the Ahom Rajah's palace ... | 200 | 33 0 0 | Ditto. |
| | Jai Sagar ... | Annual repairs to temples ... ... ... | 200 | 270 0 0 | Ditto. |
| | Gauri Sagar ... | Ditto ditto ... ... ... | | | |
| | Rang-ghar ... | Clearance of jungle, etc. ... ... ... | | | |
| | | Total ... | 12,701 | 2,581 14 10 | |

# APPENDIX B.

*List of Photographs taken in 1904-1905.*

The numbers run in continuation of the list of the preceding year. The negatives are all full plates.

| Serial No. | District. | Locality. | Subject. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | ASSAM. | |
| 295 | Lakhimpur ... | Tamassari ... | Copper temple : entrance. |
| 296 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto from west. |
| 297 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Carved tiles from enclosure wall. |
| 298 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto. |
| 299 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto. |
| 300 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto. |
| 301 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto. |
| 302 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Capital and base of pillar. |
| 303 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Statues of Surya, Kali, and Sarasvati. |
| 304 | Sibsagar ... | Deopani ... | Statues of Durga and Vishnu. |
| 305 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto (duplicate). |
| 306 | Ditto ... | Dimapur ... | First group of monoliths : first half. |
| 307 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto second half. |
| 308 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Fallen V-column in first group. |
| 309 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Third group of monoliths. |
| 310 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto, another view. |
| 311 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Bifurcated column in third group. |
| 312 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Another ditto. |
| 313 | Ditto ... | Kasomari Pathar | Chessman-column. |
| 314 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto, another view. |
| 315 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Sword-blade column. |
| 316 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Another ditto. |
| 317 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto. |
| 318 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto. |
| 319 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Square pillar with hollow on top. |
| 320 | Goalpara ... | Rangamati Hill ... | Mosque, front view. |
| 321 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto. (duplicate). |
| 322 | Burdwan ... | Buddipur ... | View of temple in village. |
| 323 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto (duplicate). |
| 324 | Ditto ... | Raresvar ... | View of temple from west. |
| 325 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto (duplicate). |
| 326 | 24-Parganas ... | Joter Deul ... | View of temple from east. |
| 327 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto (duplicate). |
| 328 | Nadia ... | Chakdaha ... | View of temple from south. |
| 329 | Do. ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto (duplicate). |
| 330 | Do. ... | Ditto ... | Main gate of temple. |
| 331 | Do. ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto (duplicate). |
| 332 | Murshidabad ... | Ekana Chandpara | Ruined mosque. |
| 333 | Ditto ... | Kheraul ... | Outside view of mosque. |
| 334 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto (duplicate). |
| 335 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Interior of mosque, north-western corner. |
| 336 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto, south-western corner. |
| 337 | Ditto ... | Katra ... | Tomb of Murshid Kuli Khan. |
| 338 | Ditto ... | Do. ... | Ditto ditto, another view. |
| 339 | Ditto ... | Do. ... | Mosque, front view. |
| 340 | Ditto ... | Do. ... | Ditto, cloisters in back wall. |
| 341 | Ditto ... | Do. ... | Ditto, from west with corner tower. |
| 342 | Patna ... | Patna ... | Ancient statue called Durukhiya Debi. |
| 343 | Do. ... | Do. ... | Ditto ditto. (duplicate). |
| 344 | Do. ... | Maner ... | Chhoti Dargah, from south-west. |
| 345 | Do. ... | Do. ... | Ditto, ornamented window. |
| 346 | Do. ... | Do. ... | Ditto, northern gate. |
| 347 | Do. ... | Do. ... | Bari Dargah : tomb and mosque. |
| 348 | Gaya ... | Budh Gaya ... | Ornamental carvings. |
| 349 | Do. ... | Ditto ... | Others ditto. |
| 350 | Do. ... | Ditto ... | Do. ditto. |
| 351 | Shahabad ... | Rohtasgarh ... | Habsh Khan's mosque. |
| 352 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto tomb. |
| 353 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Harish Chandra's temple. |
| 354 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | View of plateau and fortifications. |
| 355 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | View of Rajghat. |
| 356 | Champaran ... | Lauriya ... | Asoka's pillar. |
| 357 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto (another view). |
| 358 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Nandangarh, from east. |
| 359 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto, from south. |
| 360 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Earthen mounds. |
| 361 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto, another view. |
| 362 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto, ditto. |
| 363 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto, ditto. |
| 364 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Excavation in A showing opening of hollow shaft. |

| Serial No. | District. | Locality. | Subject. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 365 | Champaran ... | Lauriya ... | Excavation in A, showing opening of final view. |
| 366 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Wooden post at bottom of A. |
| 367 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto ditto (another view). |
| 368 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Pieces of clay from A. |
| 369 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Ditto with impression of leaves. |
| 370 | Ditto ... | Ditto ... | Small gold leaf found in mound C. |
| 371 | Malda ... | Gaur ... | Baradwari mosque, half of facade. |
| 372 | Do. ... | Do. ... | Ditto, southern side. |
| 373 | Puri ... | Kanarak ... | Dancing Hall : Eastern steps with lions. |
| 374 | Do. ... | Ditto ... | Ditto : pillar of interior with statue of Surya, |
| 375 | Do. ... | Ditto ... | Ditto : another pillar. |
| 376 | Do. ... | Ditto ... | Mandapa, nothern gate closed. |
| 377 | Do, ... | Ditto ... | Statue of Aruna and side chamber of spire. |
| 378 | Do. ... | Khandagiri ... | Rani-gumpha : first half. |
| 379 | Do. ... | Ditto ... | Ditto : second half. |
| 380 | Do. ... | Ditto ... | View of Khandagiri peak with modern Jain temple. |
| 381 | Do. ... | Dhauli ... | Elephant on top of inscription. |

## APPENDIX C.

### List of Drawings.

*Finished during 1904.*

(7) to (30) See Appendix C to Annual Report for 1903-1904, Part I, page 10.

*Plotted and finished during 1904-1905.*

(31) Large earthen jar from fort at Basarh.
(32) Glazed vessel ditto ditto.
(33) Round Clay facing of well ditto.
(34) Terracotta wheel ditto.
(35) Square stone tablet ditto.
(36) Round stone tablet ditto.
(37) Another ditto ditto.
(38) Another ditto with spiral ornament, ditto.
(39) Horn pin ditto.
(40) Brass tripod ditto.
(41) Brass disc ditto.
(42) Clay base of pillar ditto.
(43) Lid of earthen vessel ditto.
(44) Pinnacle of roof, restored, ditto.
(31) to (44) to illustrate my article on excavations at Basarh in the Annual Report of the Archæological Survey.

*Plotted during 1904-1905.*

(45) Map of Lauriya, showing position of earthen mounds and Nandangarh.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY, BENGAL CIRCLE,

For the year ending with April 1905.

PART II.

GENERAL REMARKS.

# I.—ASSAM. NOTES ON PLACES VISITED IN 1904-1905.

## DISTRICT LAKHIMPUR.

1. *The copper temple and the ruins of Bhishmaknagar near Sadiya.*—The copper temple stands in the south-western section of a rectangular area enclosed by a brick wall, measuring 218 by 139 feet. The temple itself is a square of a little over 10 feet only. It cannot have been the main building inside this area and the brick wall evidently enclosed some sort of a palace or fort, the other buildings of which have disappeared. The name is explained by a tradition which says that the temple originally was covered with copper, but no traces of this have been left and the clamps holding the stones of the walls together are all of iron. It seems to me more likely that the image put up in the temple was some form of Durgā, called Tāmres'varī, and that the story of the temple being covered with copper originated from a misunderstanding of that name. The place is now called Tāmasarī, which evidently represents the modern pronunciation of the Sanskrit word Tāmres'varī.

In its present state, the temple is nothing more than a heap of broken stones, with only a part of the walls standing. The roof has gone entirely, and a huge tree grows over the *débris*. The building is past all repairs; evidently there was very little carving on the stone walls except on the lintel and the jambs of the door, which was in the northern wall. The two figures on the lintels are images of Māhadeva. The roof probably was pyramidal as in similar small temples. The stones of the temple are of pale-pink and greyish-green colour. I chipped off two fragments, which Mr. E. Vredenburg of the Geological Survey has been good enough to examine, who wrote to me as follows:—

"The pale-pink coloured one is a fine grained granite and the greyish-green one an impure sandstone. The latter is similar to rocks that are very frequent amongst the newer tertiary strata that fringe the Himalaya. Rocks of that age have been mapped to the north of Sadiya. The granite might have been obtained from the same neighbourhood a little further within the hill ranges, or, still more probably, from boulders washed down in streams or contained in the alluvial terraces that are frequent along the banks of the tributaries of the Brahmaputra. This may have been, indeed, the immediate origin of both kinds of rock. East of Sadiya, the metamorphic rocks which probably contain granites, extend right up to the border of the plain without the intervention of any tertiary strata."

A few lines of brick walls are seen to the north of the copper temple.

The large enclosure wall is built of very fine bricks similar to those used in the gate and walls of Dimapur city, which again in fabric are very much like the bricks used in the old Muhammadan buildings in Bengal. The thickness of the wall is 3 feet. The gate is in the northern side. Inside three faces of the wall, except the eastern one, had a line of carved tiles about 3 feet distant from each other. They measure on the average 11 by 13 inches, with a thickness of one inch. All the specimens which I recovered have been photographed. Of these 12 were still *in situ*, but taken out by me to have them cleaned and photographed; the remaining four were dug out from the *débris*. The total number of tiles must have been more than hundred, when the wall was complete, and it might be possible to recover a few more, as the spaces, where the tiles were placed into the wall, still can be seen. I could only devote a few hours to this digging, and the men had to use bamboos, no spades being available. It seems, however, very unlikely that any more complete specimens will be found, as the bricks subsequently fallen down generally must have smashed them to pieces. Thus of one tile with the figure of a cock on it, not more than five fragments making up only half of the original could be found despite of careful searching. The tiles have been placed by me inside the copper temple, but I think that it would be better to have them removed to some Museum, where they could easily be seen.

The carvings represent figures of men, animals, birds, flowers and geometrical patterns, evidently without any symbolical meaning attached to them, whether religious or otherwise. The style is of the semi-barbarian kind, as in

the carvings at Dimapur and other places in Assam. As instances of this, I may refer to the figure of a tiger or lion, which is very similar in treatment to the figures of a lion mounting on an elephant, seen on the broken V-columns from Dimapur. The type of course is Indian and only too common in mediæval Indian art, but the design, especially of the mane and tail in the Assam figures, is peculiar. The peacock, of which two are represented on another tile with their bodies twisted around each other, is also a favourite device on the Dimapur columns, and the ornamental pattern of the tile No. 7 in the following list occurs again on some of the V-columns in the newly discovered third group of pillars at Dimapur, with which I shall deal later on. The following is a list of the carvings represented on the tiles:—

(1) bearded man, dancing, holding staff in right hand, and unknown object in uplifted left hand;
(2) beardless man with conical cap, running, spear in right hand; dagger fastened to left side of girdle;
(3) pair of dancers; their uplifted right hands hold some sort of musical instrument (?), the left hands holding a stick rest on the hip; perforated ears; eyes and mouths wide opened, stump noses and hair arranged in strains ending in spirals;
(4) two peacocks with their bodies twisted around each other; small tree or flower on each side;
(5) lion or tiger standing against tree with forelegs uplifted, tongue protruding from its mouth; tail ending in a cluster of five bunches of hair;
(6) horse with saddle and bridle;
(7) circle formed by two lines with dots between; inside ornament formed by twisting a rope or chord into four larger and many smaller irregular circles or ellipses;
(8) plant with five long pointed leaves;
(9) two squares laid crosswise into each other; corners filled with ornamental springs; in inner square ornamental flower with four small and four large petals;
(10) group of four flowers; largest cup-shaped with four leaves or petals on each side; two small flowers below and an unblossomed bud rising over largest flower;
(11) lotus-shaped ornament with eight petals arranged around circle in centre, having cluster of nine drops;
(12) falcon carrying heron;
(13) dancing figure; right hand uplifted, left hand resting on hip; head resembles those of dancers on tile No. 3; tile broken;
(14) five fragments making up half the original tile, which evidently had a bird resembling a cock as ornament;
(15) fabulous bird with pointed crest; I am unable to suggest what kind of bird this means; two pieces; corner missing;
(16) three pieces; lotus-shaped ornament similar to that in tile No. 11, in Circle formed by two lines.

A further link connecting these ruins with the remains at Dimapur consists in the base and capital of a stone pillar, which, when complete, seems to have been similar to the so-called chessman-columns at that place. They were found in the north-eastern section of the enclosed area. I found two such bases, their shape is octagonal, 2 feet 6 inches in diameter, with a circular hollow inside; these rested on squares, with their corners cut off and differently moulded. The hemispherical capital measures 2 feet 4 inches in diameter at its base and is perforated by a hollow shaft 1 foot 10 inches long. Near the bottom a pair of snakes biting their tails is twisted around it and holds four irregular shaped bolts or knots projecting from the round surface.

East of the enclosure wall are some more ruins of brick and stone buildings. Among these I found three statues of Hindu deities. Two of them could easily be recognised as images of Sūrya and of Kali dancing on Śiva, while the third probably represents Sarasvāti, if the indistinct object, which she holds in her right hand, is a musical instrument, as I am inclined to think.

It is impossible in the absence of any inscriptions or traditions to determine the age of these remains. I found only one mark on one of the stones of the copper temple, which may be read as the letter *ja*, but even then that particular form of the letter has been in use for several centuries and no historical conclusions can be based upon such slender palæographical evidence.

The ancient city of Bhishmaknagar had to be left unexplored by me. The task of cleaning the thick undergrowth that now covers the area would have been very costly apart from the difficulty of getting labour up there. Only a small path for the elephants has been cut through the jungle, by which I approached the eastern rampart and ditch which surrounded the city, and which I followed up for a distance of about one mile. It is impossible at present to estimate the extent of the city. Its area may cover several square miles. No rumour has as yet come forth of the existence of any remains of buildings inside this enormous tract. The Mishmis, who go about hunting there, say that nothing is to be found in the jungle. Until some definite report of ruins likely to be discovered inside the city enclosure has been received, I do not think that it would be justified to incur the large expenditure of clearing the jungle, which would cost several thousands of rupees, even if it will be possible to induce labourers to work there for a month or two.

## DISTRICT SIBSAGAR.

(2) *The ruins of Dimapur.*—The restoration of the broken monoliths in the main group of ruins has been taken in hand and was going on while I was there. A few chessman columns have already been restored. The stone unfortunately has become very soft owing to its having been buried in the moist soil of the place for so many years and great care had to be taken in lifting up broken pieces and joining them together. Iron bands are tied around the shafts of the pillars, wherever necessary. The broken pieces of the second isolated pillar shown in Colonel Godwin-Austen's map has been dug out again.

The clearing of the undergrowth has brought to light the existence of a third group of pillars similar to the two groups already known. It is to the south-west of the first or main group. Unfortunately it has suffered great damage by jungle growth and is probably more or less beyond repair, except that it might be possible to put up one or two pieces as specimens of what the pillars were like. I have, however, suggested to defer this work at present, and I strongly recommended to clear the undergrowth of the whole area of the old city at once, as it is very likely, if not almost certain, that many more remains of a similar description will come to light. At present only one-tenth of the tract enclosed by the city walls has been laid open. I understand that it will cost about Rs. 1,500 to clear the whole undergrowth, and that this could be done during the current year. I have proposed that the sum might be applied for from the annual grant of one lakh for Archæology given by the Imperial Government, if the money could not be had from provincial funds. When the total area has been opened out, it will be possible to ascertain what remains exist, and then to lay out a definite programme for systematic restoration. It is of course out of question to re-erect every broken pillar of the place, but what can be done and what should be done is to restore the main features of the ruins so as to give a general idea of its original condition. To do this properly and systematically, we must at first be able to estimate the total amount of existing ruins and this can only be done when the place has been laid open. The restoration of the main group of columns, as at present sanctioned, might go on at the same time, but no further restoration work should be undertaken until the jungle is removed. It will, however, be necessary to apply some protective measures at once to the broken faces of the masonry of the gate and city wall. They should all be covered over with cement, to prevent water from getting into the walls. I look upon the ruins at Dimapur as the place which stands first in order of conservation in Assam. They are, to my mind, the most interesting remains of the Province, and quite unique in India, and moreover they enjoy the rare advantage of being easily accessible, and they are so situated that a great number of travellers annually must pass them. They are not hidden away in some distant jungle, and interested visitors can conveniently inspect them. The same unfortunately

does not apply to some other interesting places, which it would be worth preserving, especially the ruins at Kasomari Pathar, with which I shall have to deal in the following chapter.

Returning to the third newly discovered group of pillars, it appears to have consisted of four parallel rows running from north to south in the same direction as the two other groups. The two outer rows were formed by chessman-columns, very similar to those in groups 1 and 2, but generally of less height and circumference. There were small holes in the top evidently for the reception of some other piece of stone or wood, perhaps similar to the knob that crowns the large isolated pillar west of the main group of columns. The two inner rows are made up by V-shaped columns. These, however, differ considerably from the V columns in the first group. The two bifurcating pieces of stone are curved and resemble somewhat in shape the horns of a buffalo. The ornamentation also is different and with its rosettes resembles the pillars at Kasomari Pathar, with which I shall deal later on. The top of the two bifurcated stones is rounded and has mortice-holes like the V columns in the first group. I have been unable to make out the exact number of columns in each row, as the stones are too much broken, but they must have been less than the first group.

The discovery of this group and another similar group of ruins at Kasomari Pathar proves, I think, that the theory according to which the V columns in the first group supported the roof of some building has to be abandoned. It has already been variously suggested that the columns at Dimapur were memorial stones put up in honour of some great man or event or commemorating some meritorious act, such as the killing of a *mithun* (or bison) or the feasting of a village. This suggestion was first pointed out to me by Mr. Allan, the Superintendent of Gazetteer Revision in Assam, and later on I found it expounded in an interesting report by Mr. Mitchell, the Executive Engineer, Naga Hills Division. The custom, I hear, is still in vogue among the Naga tribes who put up in their villages single blocks of stone or bifurcated wooden posts as memorial tokens of their national heroes and of events like those mentioned above. The mortice-holes in the V columns of the first group then cannot be made use of for the building theory. They must have been made merely for the reception of some finial of either stone, wood or metal, perhaps similar to the knob over the large isolated monolith. As I have already mentioned, similar holes are seen in the chessman and bifurcated columns of the third group, where the building theory scarcely would hold good, and the hemispherical capital of a broken pillar found near the copper temple, which in shape closely resembles those of the chessman columns, also was perforated, as I have already mentioned. The sword or dagger, which is often found represented on those memorial columns, closely resembles the Naga knife. The style of carving on those pillars probably was more or less indigenous with some slight touches of Indian Art; but this question still deserves to be worked out in detail.

South-west of the third group of ruins the border of a large tank has been reached, and near the second group stone steps leading down to another tank have been discovered.

My notes on Assam have been submitted in a report to the Chief Commissioner, and in the letter acknowledging the receipt of my report, Mr. Fuller added the following interesting remarks on the question of the Dimapur columns:—

"The Chief Commissioner has recently visited the ruins after having marched through the Naga Hills, and has been struck with several points of similarity between the V-shaped pillars and the memorials used by the Naga tribes to commemorate sacrifices. Mr. Fuller found in Sema villages wooden 'shields' cut out in the shape of the letter U, standing 7 or 8 feet high and covered with rough carving, amongst which were symbols of the Sun, of the Moon, and of lightning. He noticed that these shields all faced the east, and was told on enquiry that for some reason now unknown they were all turned to the rising Sun. In general shape, as well as in being definitely orientated, they were not very unlike the V-shaped stones recently discovered at Dimapur. The Rengma Nagas use rows of stones, of gradually decreasing size. The Chief Commissioner noticed in the Garo Hills wooden

pillars, set up before houses in memory of dead relations, which are something of the 'chessman' shape. It may well be that Dimapur is a relic of a stifled development of Tibeto-Burman civilization."

3. *The ruins at Kasomari Pathar.*—These ruins are inside the forest, a little off the Doyang river, about one day's journey by boat from the Jamuguri station on the Assam-Bengal Railway. They are not much known locally, and I had to take a special guide with me from Jamuguri, as my boatmen did not know the place.

It appears that there was an old city at this place, which may have extended for half a mile each way. The earthen ramparts and moats are still visible, and inside are several small mounds of earth, which may contain the remains of some buildings. The monoliths or memorial stones, as I think I may safely call them, belong to the northern section of the town. First there is an isolated chessman column 9 feet high, with a circumference of 9 feet 6 inches at its base. It is identical in style with the Dimapur chessman pillars. The hemispherical capital has a number of garlands falling down from its top. Among the carved emblems we again meet with the Naga sword. At a distance of 55 feet from this column is a double row of stones—24 altogether. It looks as if each line consisted of 12 stones, but the ruinous state of the place and the thick jungle made it impossible to take accurate measurements. The distance between the stones was about 10 feet. Here again the two lines run from north to south. The stones in the western line appear to have been larger than those in the eastern line. There are also some indications of the height of the stones, gradually decreasing from the centre towards each side, as in the Dimapur pillars. My measurements of four stones record the following heights:—6′ 5″; 8′; 9′ 4″; 8′ 6″. The position of these stones is so that the first or lowest stands near the northern end, the third or highest almost in the centre, while the remaining two are more or less close to it. The average breadth is 2 feet 6 inches.

Only four out of the two dozen of stones are still erect. The remaining stones all lie prostrate on the ground, some broken and some complete, some upside down, and others with their carved faces turned upwards. It was impossible to photograph any of the fallen stones, but the four standing ones of which I took photographs, give, I think, a general idea as to what these stones looked like. Only one side is carved. Its pointed shape narrowing a little towards the base somewhat resembles the blade of a sword or dagger. Perhaps the name 'sword-blade or dagger-columns' would be appropriate for them, to distinguish them from the chessman and V columns. The base has a horizontal band of ornaments. The panel below it has some animal figures—elephants or lions—carved upon it on some of the stones. From the horizontal bands rise generally two, but in a few instances only one pair of projecting bands, which at the end develop into a circle filled up with rosettes and similar designs. The irregular triangle which is formed by the two curves nearing each other towards the top is either left empty, or has a sword or some other emblem carved upon it. The top is filled with a heart-shaped panel, containing various patterns of ornamentation. At the north-eastern end of the group stands a small square pillar, 3′ 8½″ high and 1′ 4″ broad. It has a hollow in the top 7½ inches square.

The difficulty about restoring this interesting group of ruins lies not so much in the nature of the work, which would be fairly easy, as in the seclusion of this out-of-the-way place. It will hardly attract many visitors, except perhaps some sportsmen who may happen to be hunting in the forests near Kasomari Pathar, and it would also be difficult and costly to settle down labourers for the time and to bring up the necessary supplies and machinery. As long as the restoration of the ruins at Dimapur has not been carried to an end, I am afraid the place must be left as it is. The claims of Dimapur, as I have already stated, stand first, and it will take some years until the work there is finished, even if regular progress is made with it, and not, as it often happens, something unforeseen puts a sudden stop to it.

4. *The images near the Deopani river.*—These images lie among the *débris* of a small brick temple that stood close to the banks of the Deopani river. It is about one mile distant from the road from Golaghat to Dimapur. The foot-path leading to the ruined temple branches of just before the river is

reached, between miles 26 and 27. The images are two in number, but broken fragments of other ones lie around. The larger one, 5 feet 10 inches high, is a figure of Durgā, standing with the head broken. She has four hands, the two lower ones show the open palms, a gesture which in Buddhist art is called *varadā mudrā* or the wish-granting attitude. Of the two upper ones, the right hand holds a trident, and the left one a mirror, one of the emblems of Durgā. On each side of the goddess stands a small worshipping female, holding the hands with their palms joined together in front of the breast, the usual attitude of a person attending upon some one of high rank. Above these are small figures of Ganes'a and Kārttikeya, riding on a peacock.

The second or smaller image, 2 feet 6 inches high, is a standing Vishnu or Nārāyana, with two hands only, wearing the usual crown and having the *Srīvātsa* mark on his breast. On the left outer face is an inscription in four lines, the end of which is broken. The broken piece could not be found. The inscription consists of three verses of Sanskrit poetry, evidently full of orthographical and grammatical blunders, and for this reason difficult to read. The first two verses seem to be in honour of Siva, and the third refers to the putting up of a statue of Nārāyana by some person, whose name was on the missing piece of stone. It is of no historical interest. Judging from the characters it belongs to about the 12th century A. D.

It is very likely that further remains of this small mediæval temple will be found if the big tree that now grows upon its *débris* has been cut down and the foundations of the brick walls have been excavated.

### DISTRICT GOALPARA.

5. *The mosque on the Rangamati Hill.*—This is an ordinary masonry mosque with three domes of the later Muhammedan time. It is probably not more than 200 years old. Its walls and domes are covered with plaster, which has fallen off in places. But otherwise the walls are fairly intact, except that the roots of a *pipal* tree have set into the front wall. The jungle around the place was cut down when I went there. If the owner will attend to this regularly, as he appears to do, there seems to me no need for Government to interfere. The building is altogether of very little interest.

## II.—BENGAL.

### DISTRICT BURDWAN.

6. *The temples at Buddipur and Raresvar.*—The temple at Buddipur was built by Subhānandapāla in 1678 A. D., and dedicated to Krishna. It consists of two spires joined together. The smaller one stands to the east with a door in its eastern side, the larger one to the west with a gate in its southern side. There is no false ceiling inside, and the roof rises in the shape of a tall pyramid with rows of small projecting cornices. The broken top probably was rounded. The carved tiles over the entrance resemble those at Vishnupur. The temple is somewhat obstructed from view by trees and modern houses. It is not of very great interest and I recommended only to cut down grass and shrubs which grow over the walls.

The Raresvar temple stands inside a lonely forest close to a fine old tank. Evidently it enjoys a good deal of local celebrity, as a petition signed by many residents of the district had been submitted to the Commissioner, asking Government to undertake its repairs. It was at the Commissioner's instance that I inspected the temple. However, I could not recommend to Government to spend any money on the temple, as it possesses little interest only. It is a square tower built of laterite and sandstone and standing on a platform. The roof was pyramidal. There are no carvings on the walls. Inside are a large *linga* and *yoni*. Close to the temple is a place called Bhairabnāth, where people put down clay figures of horses and elephants.

### DISTRICT 24-PARGANAS.

7. *The Joter Deul in the Sunderbans.*—This temple is about 40 miles south of Port Canning in lot No. 119 of the Sunderbans. It affords an interesting proof of the fact that more than 500 years ago this part of the Sunderbans

was inhabited. The land around the temple is at present again under cultivation, but the jungle was cleared only ten or fifteen years ago. There is an old sweet-water tank close to the temple. The *temple itself is a single* tower built of bricks. It stands on an ancient mound covered with fallen bricks, where there is an underground chamber. The temple door is to the east. The roof of the interior rises in corbels. The outside walls are much damaged, especially at the bottom, where about half the thickness of the walls has fallen down. As an interesting historical relic considering the place where it is standing, the temple seemed worth preserving and an estimate for its repairs has been sent up by the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankments Division, who accompanied me on my inspection tour. The accurate date of the temple is not known, but it is certainly more than 500 years old. A copperplate, about 900 years old, is said to have been found close to it several years ago, but it is not known what has become of it and it could not be traced. Perhaps it might have thrown some light on the history of this interesting monument.

## DISTRICT NADIA.

8. *The Temple at Chakdaha.*—It stands inside the jungle, close to the village of Palpara, two miles from the railway station. Its shape is that of a Bengali hut, with a curved roof, a form not uncommon in the later temple architecture of Bengal. Inside the roof has been turned into domes. The main gate is to the south, with finely carved bricks around it. A small door is also in the eastern side. The walls are badly damaged by trees, and the temple is almost hidden away in the jungle. I recommended to cut down the thick vegetation around it; to restore all the broken parts of the walls; unfortunately was found to be impossible. The temple is only a few hundred years old. It used to have an inscription giving its date, but the stone has been taken away and its present deposit is not known.

## DISTRICT MURSHIDABAD.

9. *The Mosques at Ekana Chandpara, Kheraul and Khatra.*—The first mosque is nothing but an unsightly heap of bricks with a stone pillar sticking out of it. Its final ruin is due to the great earthquake in 1897.

The mosque at Kheraul, a few miles distant from Ekana Chandpara, is much better preserved. It is a square inside, changing into an octagon, which supported a single hemispherical dome. There were three prayer niches in the western or back wall. In front is a corridor covered by three small cupolas. The brick carvings are well executed. Among them is found the lotus pattern, imitated from Hindu carvings, over the lintel of one of the prayer niches. Unfortunately the walls are badly damaged and the roof is fallen. I have recommended only minor repairs to preserve the standing portions of the building from further ruin, a complete restoration being out of question. The mosque was built by Rufāt Khan in the Hijri year 900, which commenced on the 2nd October 1494 A. D. There are two inscriptions recording this date, and both evidently refer to the same building. In one of them the name of the reigning Sultan, Husain Shāh, has been added. As the erection of the mosque falls into the beginning of his reign, which brought an end to a troubled period of anarchy in Bengal, it is possible that when the mosque was built, the new ruler had not yet made his authority sufficiently felt throughout his kingdom, but that later on Rufāt Khān thought it better to add the name of Husain Shāh, and for this reason put up a second tablet. The first tablet was preserved simply because it contained a verse from the Kuran. Muhammadans are very averse to destroy similar inscribed stones, because they might contain some holy verses from the Kuran, and as Blochmann has pointed out it is to this dread that we owe the preservation of so many ancient Muhammadan inscriptions at Gaur, Panduah and other places. The two stone tablets are now placed upside down into the northern side of the brick-terrace of the tomb of Ghāzī Pīr Kallā near the mosque.

The Katra mosque is the oldest and largest mosque at Murshidabad. It is moreover a place of historical interest as it contains the tomb of Murshid Kuli Khan, the founder of Murshidabad, who, like his wife Azīmunnisā Begum,

showed his intense humility by allowing their ladies to be interred beneath the steps leading up to the house of God. As he says in an inscription over the central arch of the mosque :

Muhammad the Arab, who is the Lord of both worlds ;
" Whosoever is not the dust of his threshold, may dust fall on the head of such a man. "

The tomb of Murshid Kuli Khan is regularly kept in order by the Nawab of Murshidabad. Nothing more than jungle clearing can be done to the mosque itself, and this also is repeated from time to time by the Nawab. The two large corner towers to the west are the most striking feature of the building. They have small loop-holes, as if they had been intended for defensive purposes.

The tomb of Sarfāraz Khān has now been covered by a modern brick structure, with a lampstand, and a marble tablet has been put up there, saying that this is the tomb of Nawab Sarfāraz Khān, the grandson of Nawab Murshid Kuli Khān, who died in 1740A.D. The tomb of Azīmunnisā Begam, the wife of Murshid Kuli Khān, is in good order. The buildings connected with it are more or less of later origin.

## DISTRICT PURI.

10. *Repairs to the Black Pagoda at Kanarak.*—The interior of the Mandapa has now been filled up with stones and sand and will remain closed for ever. In order to fill it up to the top, a hole has been bored through the huge *amlaka* or finial of the roof; its length was 25 feet, and its breadth 5 inches in diameter. The three gates have been blocked up with stones, which was necessary to secure them safely though some of them, especially the southern one, now look rather heavy. The broken stones around the recesses of the roof are replaced by new plain work. The dancing hall in front of the Mandapa has been cleared of sand and *débris*, and the lions standing on top of it have been taken down and placed on both sides in front of the eastern stairs leading up to the hall. The interior of the hall has four square pillars, richly carved with figures of musicians, dancing girls and animals of the same type as those in the outside walls. Near one of the pillars stood a fine chlorite image of the Sun-god, placed upon a *vedi* or altar of chlorite, belonging to another statue. The eyes of the Sun-god are unfinished, and it has been suggested for this reason, that the image has never been consecrated, as the eyes generally are added after an idol has been placed into the sanctum of the temple ; this ceremony now being called *chakshurdāna* or 'eye-gift' in Bengal. It seems as if the chlorite statue of the Sun-god was intended for some of the minor shrines in the temple court.

Another interesting discovery has been made in the northern side of the big heap of stones west of the mandapa. On removing some of the loose stones from the outside, a compact piece of stone wall was found still standing close to the top of the stone heap. It had a small side chamber, with a passage leading into the interior of the shrine. Above it stands inside a niche a finely carved chlorite figure of a man on horse-back, probably Aruna, the fore-rider of the Sun. This discovery proves that about one-third of the spire of the temple will be found standing beneath the stone-heap, and provision for removing the broken stones all around it has accordingly been made for the current year. A beginning has also been made with planting small trees around the temple court to keep out the strong drift of sand from the seaside.

11. *Bhubanesvar and Dhauli.*—At Bhubanesavar estimates have been made for repairing the Meghesvara temple and a few minor temples in the western part of the town. The Meghesvara temple, which is the easternmost of all, is of interest as we know its date. It was built in the reign of Ananga Bhīma I, by Svapnes'vara, one of his generals. That king ascended the throne in 1192 A. D. and reigned for ten years. The inscription is now in the western wall of the court of the temple of Ananta-Vāsudeva, but the vacant space at the left-hand side of the door of the Meghesvara temple still exists, and besides there is the old tank north of the temple, mentioned in the inscription. It thus becomes evident that this temple really is the Meghes'vara shrine, not that of Bhāskares'vara, as the Public Works Department choose to call it.

The inscription of Asoka on the northern side of the Dhauli hill will soon be protected by a stone shade, just like that placed over the Hathigumpha inscription of Khāravela on the Khandagiri hill. The latter having been objected to as being an unnecessarily heavy structure, care has been taken to avoid the same fault at Dhauli.

## DISTRICT CHAMPARAN.

12. *Excavations at Lauriya.*—The curious earthen mounds north of the village of Lauriya, a police outpost in the Bettiah sub-division, have often been noticed before and much speculation has been going on as to what they represent. The only clue that was hitherto available was the report of the discovery in one of them of a large leaden or iron coffin containing a human skeleton. The find was made about 40 years ago and the report has been confirmed to me by Mr. Moore, a resident of the place, whose father had told him about the matter. Subsequent digging, done more or less at random, had not revealed anything of importance, and the mounds remained a puzzle, though they were called more or less confidently either tombs or even 'earthen stupas.' It was with the object of probing a few of them by cutting down a trench through the centre from the top to the bottom, that I started excavations at Lauriya. Although the too sanguine hopes, which I cherished at the beginning, with regard to finds of antiquities or treasure have not been realized, my excavations have revealed some interesting facts and placed me in a position to show for what purpose these earthen structures had been erected.

The mounds are arranged in three rows of five each, varying in height from 50 to 20 feet. The first row runs from east to west. A little to the north between the first and second mounds in this row, stands the famous As'oka column, with the lion capital. Then follow two parallel rows from north to south. The fourth mound from north in the eastern one of these two rows is the place where the iron or leaden coffin with a human skeleton was discovered. The place of the fourth mound in the western one of the north to south rows is occupied by a cluster of five small mounds, only a few feet in height and hardly distinguishable from the fields around them. About one mile south of the mounds stands the famous Nandangarh, which Cunningham has misspelt as Navandgarh. What this curious structure represents, cannot now be determined. It is so thickly covered with huge trees, that not even its shape, whether round or oblong, can be made out. Only a small path has been cut through the jungle up to the top, which consists of a small plateau of some extent. The mound seems to be filled with bricks throughout, and if it was a brick stupa it must have been of considerable size. But it is as likely that it contains an accumulation of the ruins of several brick buildings, perhaps the citadel of an ancient city that once may have existed there. In order to clear up this problem, it would be necessary to cut down all the trees of the mound and then to begin removing the *débris* from the bottom until some solid foundations of buildings are reached. By digging small holes into the top of the mound, as has been done by previous explorers, nothing will be revealed, and there is every chance of destroying all the existing evidence. Fourteen miles north of it, a similar structure exists at Chankigarh. Both can be seen from each other. The exploration of this mound should be done on the same lines as that of the Nandangarh.

Returning to the earthen mounds north of the village of Lauriya, to which my operations have been restricted, their shape now is more or less conical. I believe, however, that originally they were hemispherical, and that the action of the rain-water has washed off a good deal of earth from the top and thus changed their forms. There is generally around the base a large accumulation of yellow clay, the material used for building the mounds. This yellow clay, of which all the mounds have been made, is quite different from the white soil of the fields around them, and it is evident that it must have been imported from some where else. Time has made it almost as hard as stone, and to dig through the mounds accordingly becomes slow work. The clay is used by the natives to prepare a yellow paint which they smear on the walls of their houses. There seemed to me no doubt that the earth used in building the mounds has been taken from the bed of the Gandak, the nearest river, about 10 miles distant at present. Certain shells, which I found embedded in it, and which I showed

to Major Alcock, cannot be adduced as evidence, as the animals to which they belong are rather amphibious, living likewise in river beds, ponds, and on land, and being provided both with gills and lungs. Also the calcareous concretions known to the natives as "kankar" or "ankar," which are very numerous, do not afford a conclusive proof. But numerous pebbles found by me embedded in the clay of the mounds leave no doubt as to its true origin. I have submitted specimens of the stones to Messrs. Vredenburg and Fermor of the Geological Survey, who very kindly examined them for me. The following are Mr. Vredenburg's interesting remarks on the matter, from which it will be evident that the clay used for erecting the mounds has been carted away from the Gandak.

"The limestone is of the form usually found as nodules in alluvial soils and to which the name "kankar" has usually become restricted in our geological literature. It is therefore probable that the clay constituting the mounds has been obtained from some bed in the Gangetic alluvium. At the same time, the presence of rolled pebbles renders it very plausible that it should have been obtained in the Gandak river, probably from a clay bed exposed in the river bank. The pebbles consist of rocks that are abundantly found in the Himalaya from where they would have found their way into the Gandak river. There is one specimen of a fossil (or sub-fossil) shell resembling the fresh water *ampullaria*, though not sufficiently well preserved to identify it with certainty. It probably comes from the Gangetic alluvium just like the "kankar."

The following identifications have been made for the several specimens:—

(1) Three pebbles of quartzite, such as may have been obtained from the denudation of the ancient sub-metamorphic beds common in the outer Himalayas.
(2) Decomposed slate or "phyllite," probably from the same system.
(3) A mixture of the iron ores "hæmatite" and "limonite" containing a great deal of mica. This is an alteration product to which it is difficult to assign its age and origin. It may have been derived from some altered bed of the ancient systems, but it is just as possible that it may be a concretion from the Gangetic alluvium.
(4) Cast of a shell, apparently the fresh-water *ampullaria*.
(5) Calcareous concretions, "kankar," from the Gangetic alluvium.

A further peculiarity is that in three of the mounds opened by me the clay had been put up in thin layers with straw and leaves laid between them. In digging through the mounds the earth broke off in flat cakes of a few inches thickness, showing on both sides clear marks of straw having been put between the layers of clay. The layers evidently consisted of broad strata raised one upon the other through the entire width of the mound, and I find no signs of their having been made by unburnt bricks. The clay everywhere broke off in irregular pieces of different size. Deeper down and nearer to the bottom of the mound the clay assumed a dark brown colour, while nearer to the surface it looked yellow. Its hardness was different in the four mounds opened by me.

These four mounds I shall refer to as A, B, C, and D, in the order in which I began to excavate them. A is the third from north in the western line of the north to south rows. It is one of the highest of the mounds, its height exceeding 50 feet. It has been opened down to the bottom by cutting in terraces from a little over the centre in an easterly direction to the end of the mound. The trench thus made was at first 15 feet broad, but as such a broad excavation involved rather unnecessary earthwork, it was narrowed later on. On the second day already we found a small deposit of human bones, mixed up with burnt wood and a small gold leaf with the figure of a female stamped on it. They were found a few feet below the surface just in the centre of the mound. I regret to say that the gold leaf was stolen from me in the following night. I had placed it inside my cash-box, which I kept in the tent where I was sleeping. This box was taken out from my tent while I was asleep. It contained Rs. 180 in cash besides the gold leaf. The police have been unable to trace the thief and to recover the stolen pro-

perty. On digging farther down we came upon the opening of a deep hole, 10 inches in diameter. It was evident that this hollow shaft, which we traced all through the mound, in the centre, was made by a wooden post, which had been eaten up by white-ants. Nests of white ants were found close to the shaft and their passages could be seen around it. The end of the hollow shaft, was filled up with earth, but its circumference still remained distinguish able. At a little over 50 feet the yellow clay stopped and we came upon the grey soil of the fields around the mounds. The dividing line between the yellow clay and the grey soil was very sharply marked, and it was quite clear that we had got to the bottom of the mound. Here we found the end of the wooden post still preserved in the grey soil. Its top was hollow and filled with water, which evidently had remained in it from the last rains when the water level must have been higher than in the dry season. At that time it was some 4 or 5 feet below the top of the wooden stump. I followed the wooden stump down to a depth of 6 feet without getting to its end. As it seemed useless to continue the excavation further, I left the stump standing in the pit, which my coolies had dug around it. It was *sakwa* or sal wood, of considerable thickness. Its circumference at the base being 4 feet 4 inches. It seems to me certain that the mound did not contain any further deposit besides the few bones and the gold leaf near the top. The centre was clearly marked by the hollow shaft, and as the analogy of Buddhist stupas leads us to search for the deposit near the centre, I think I could not have missed it, as my trench extended for several feet in all directions around the centre.

The next mound B. the first from north in the eastern line of the north to south rows, yielded very little of interest. There was no deposit of bones here, except that animal bones turned up here and there, of which by the way also several pieces have been found mixed up with the clay of mound A. In the centre we found a great number of pieces of corroded iron, all through the mound. It is possible that they formed parts of a similar pillar running through the centre of the mound, like the wooden post in A. The grey soil of the fields was reached at a depth of a little over 30 feet. The yellow clay was built up in layers with straw put between them as in A and in the following mound C. Here also were no signs of any deposit at or near the centre, and it seems to me likewise certain that I cannot have missed it if there really was any.

In mound C the second in the western line of north to south rows. I found a deposit of human bones and a gold leaf exactly like that found in A. with a female stamped upon it, at a depth of 12 feet below the top in the centre of the mound. The bones were very brittle, and generally broke as soon as they were separated from the hard clay mixed with them. However portions of an upper and lower human jaw could easily be recognized. The teeth were missing. As there were two holes, one above the other in the place of one of the frontal teeth in the upper jaw, we may conclude that the person to whom the bones belonged died very youug, about 14 years old, in the age when children change some of their teeth. The opening of the hollow shaft, which I expected to find here, as in A was reached at the depth of 25 feet. I then stopped work at C as it seemed useless to go on with it, the mound having been proved to be a structure just like A.

The last mound D the third from north in the eastern line of the north to south rows, was opened by me merely in order to see whether it contained a deposit of bones on the top like A and C. I dug down to a depth of 25 feet, but found nothing. The season then being too far advanced for camp life and the funds at my disposal having been expended, I closed work without continuing any further. The earth of this mound is the same yellow clay as in all other mounds, but curiously enough, I found no traces here of straw or leaves having been placed between the layers of clay. Neither did I come upon the remains of a wooden post in the centre.

The explanation of the facts revealed by my excavations will be found in the ancient Indian burial customs, described to us in the *sutras* and *Prayogas* dealing with the ritual. Their rules have been collected together and explained in Dr. Caland's well known work, *Die alteridischen Todten-und Besta-*

*ttungs-gebrauche* (Verhandelingen der koninklijke Akademie van Wetenschappen to Amsterdam, 1896). According to this excellent publication, the disposal of the dead in ancient India was divided into four separate acts, viz.—

(1) Cremation.

(2) Collecting the bones of the cremated person and depositing them in an urn (*asthi saincayana*).

(3) Expiation (*santikarma*).

(4) Erection of the funeral monument (*smasana-cit* ; *losta-citi.*).

The fourth act is optional only, and is done some time after the bones have been deposited in the funeral urn and placed in the field under a tree. The urn is then taken out, and after the bones have been washed and several other ceremonies have been performed, they are placed upon the earth, the urn is broken and thrown away and a funeral monument (*smasana*) is erected over the bones by piling up layers of bricks or clay. The height of such a grave generally does not appear to have exceeded that of a human body, and its shape was some form of a quadrangle. However, both Apastamba and Hiranyakesin also mention round *smasana* like the mounds at Lauriya. In building up the *smasana* we find a vedic verse employed where a post (*sthana*) is meutioned. The meaning of this is not quite clear from the context or from the ritual, but I think the discovery of the two wooden posts in mounds A and C above which the bones were deposited, shows that it refers to a similar custom according to which a pillar was erected in the centre of the funeral monument and the bones placed above its top. The verse may be thus translated :—

"I raise the earth around thee, that I lay down this lump of earth, should not do me any harm.

" May the manes hold this pillar for thee, and may Jama prepare a seat for thee in the other world."

Again in another verse recited at the same occasion it is said :—

" The piled up earth may stand firmly, may it be supported by thousand pillars."

That there is a connection between the mounds A and C at Lauriya and the *smasana* described to us in the Vedic ritual, cannot I think, be doubted. The only difference is the height of the Lauriya mounds. The straw placed between the layers of clay at Lauriya even reminds us of the bushels of grass that are put upon the *smasana*, and as regards the gold-leaf we must remember that pieces of gold are placed upon the openings of the dead body before it is cremated. Whether the two mounds B and D have served the same purpose as A and C is not quite clear. It is possible that they were erected as monuments of persons whose funeral urns could not be found. This case is provided for in the ritual, and it is prescribed that some earth then should be taken out from the spot where the urn was supposed to have been deposited, and laid down instead of the bones. We may also think of the rules referring to persons who died on a journey and whose bodies could not be found. It is, however, likewise possible that mounds B and C merely served some purpose in connection with the cremation, which invariably was performed on the same place where the *smasana* was put up later.

It is curious to find that Asoka erected one of his pillars close to a *smasana* the haunt of ghosts and evil spirits in later time. The explanation of this is not difficult to find. Evidently these funeral monuments, probably containing the remains of royal persons, formed an object of worship, as we find adoration of the *caityas* or funeral monuments of *Cakravarttins* or kings mentioned in ancient Buddhist literature. The worship of stupas by Buddhists and Jains is nothing but an adoption of this popular form of grave worship. As a place which annually attracted large gatherings from far away, Asoka could not have selected a more suitable spot for the promulgation of his moral precepts. We thus have in the Lauriya mounds an intermediate form between the *smasana* and the Buddhists stupa or caitya. That their date is anterior to Asoka's pillar seemed highly probable, but I cannot say for how many centuries. It is a great pity that they yielded so little in the way of antiquarian finds. Only broken fragments of pottery and stone vessels turned up. The

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gold leaves may be looked upon as specimens of the ancient *nishka*, pieces of gold worn as ornaments and used as coins likewise.

The ancient *smasana* was to the north of the town or village, and the mounds of Lauriya likewise lie north of the Nandangarh, which, as I have suggested above, may have been the citadel of an ancient city that once existed at that place.

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